



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH

e-newsletter

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## An Interview with Engr. Chima Ogolo, FNSE on Professional Development and high standards for Engineers.

*E-Newsletter: Our reading audience would want to know your experiences and perhaps your contributions to the engineering profession. We will appreciate if you briefly tell us about yourself.*



Engr. Chima Ogolo, FNSE

**Engr. Ogolo:** My name is Engr. Ifeanyi Chima Ogolo. I was born on March 15<sup>th</sup> 1950 at Aba even though I am from Opobo. I attended Ahmadu Bello University Zaria where I obtained first degree in Civil Engineering with 2<sup>nd</sup> class Upper Division. I have worked with many consultants and contracting firms, I worked as the pioneer Director of Works and Projects of OMPADEC, and by the time I completed my services, the name changed to NDDC. After that I went to private practice, I was in private practice before I was called to come for a three year contract as the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Society of Engineers. Since then the job has been quite challenging. I am the chief executive of the Secretariat; I help to co-ordinate the fifty-one branches of NSE and divisions of NSE. We treat and implement policy approved by council which is the highest policy making organ of NSE. We also handled the executive capacity of EXCO which is the implementing Arm of Council. Basically I worked to protect the professional interest of all engineers and to see to their welfare as much as we can.

*E-Newsletter: Thank you very much. It's quite a lot of experience we have gained. Now as the Executive Secretary of Nigerian Society of Engineers, what strategy do you have in place or do you hope to have in place to ensure that the profession is being practised efficiently bearing in mind the number of branches and I do know that more branches will be established in other part of the country.*

**Engr. Ogolo:** Well we have the membership board, we have also the professional development board between these two boards they ensure that high standards are maintained for the training and certification of the Engineers and we do carry out courses for our interviewers and examiners to ensure that the high quality is maintained and we encourage our members to attend development workshops, courses and seminars to up grade themselves. During our annual general meetings we make sure that technical papers are presented and during engineering assembly like this (COREN Assembly) we encourage our members to attend. We make sure that some minimum standards are maintained at interview centres we have across the country and also ensure that those standards are reviewed from time to time. When we had complains on our graduates examination, council did it fit to suspend that and had a review so that they will ensure that quality is maintained. We had some agreement with the Institute of Civil Engineers, London and we are trying to have one with Malaysia so that our members will be accepted there for training and practice. We intend to reciprocate the gesture by accepting their members. This will involve coming to check our interview network and we also going down there to check theirs. Also we are strong members of (COREN) the Council for the Regulation for Engineering in Nigeria. Through COREN we also

ensure that we maintain high standards and that engineers maintain a minimum of four years before they can be interviewed and we also ensure even before the interview, we have what we call compulsory refresher course not only for the new members, but for those who have stayed in the profession for some time. That way we teach them entrepreneurship, how to package their proposals, reports, documents and other things that may not easily be taught very well in school like Information Technology, proficiency and so on.

*E-Newsletter: Are you aware that some of our Nigerian Engineers abroad especially in United States have interest of joining the Nigerian Society of Engineers? What plan(s) do you have for such people?*

**Engr. Ogolo:** EXCO and Council have been working on that for quite some time. We don't really need to travel down there. Some of them were members here before going down there and as I said there are minimum standards. So once you have obtained Bachelor of Engineering from COREN accredited Institution and they are always updating this accreditation, that show that you have the basic qualification and you have been practising the profession for four years. As I said some are already members here, so once branches are formed there, those members will help us interview them and bring them in. For instance, if you are already a corporate member of the American Institute of Civil Engineers or Institution of Civil Engineers, London or some other places, and other divisions we have corporative arrangement even with them and trying to link some of them up. So we contacted some of our members to work on that, we are going to facilitate action to make sure it is tidied up and some of the problems like payment modalities (like credit card and so on), are being looked into.

*E-Newsletter: What is the plan of NSE to ensure that Engineering personnel are involved in the execution of some of these projects like the 7-Point Agenda of the Government?*

**Engr. Ogolo:** We've had series of dialogues with government more and more, we make our presence felt more and more. We give position papers on virtually all issues on infrastructures be it on roads, rail-ways, electricity and so on. Recently we co-sponsored the authorship of at least two bills for Federal Road Authority and Road Fund. Basically we have been championing and making the Ministry of Transportation a policy making agency while now you have road authority to really go into concession of the projects. Eventually we were working on that before we heard of decentralization because aspect of that mandate was not implemented and the work load is too much for ministers that are in transportation. In fact we have gone to finalize arrangement to create authorities for rail ways, roads just as you have in air ways and so on.

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### CONGRATULATIONS TO ENGR. PROF. H. I. HART, FNSE

Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart, FNSE, Dean, Faculty of Engineering has been elevated to Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt. NSE PH Branch E-newsletter wishes Prof Hart God's guidance and direction and fruitful years of service to mankind.



### NSChE 38<sup>th</sup> National Annual Conference & General Meeting 'WARRI 2008'

The theme of the conference was: Chemical Engineering and the Actualization of Nigerian Vision 2020. Two governors attended the opening session on 31/10/2008. They are governor of Ekiti State, His Excellency, Engr. Segun Oni and the host governor, His Excellency, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan. Two plenary sessions which centered on: Infrastructural Development as catalyst for Nation building; Vision 2020 & the Downstream Industry: Challenges for chemical engineers and the place for SMEs in the actualization of the vision were discussed at the conference. At the technical sessions thirty papers were presented and discussed at three parallel sessions.



The Ekiti State governor, His Excellency, Engr. Segun Oni making a speech at the event



The Delta State governor, His Excellency, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan making a speech at the event.

### NICE PRESENTS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE TO NSE PH BRANCH

Engr. Amatemeso, former branch chairman of NICE presents plaque to Vice chairman NSE PH Branch.



Engr. Amatemeso (right) presenting the plaque to Vice Chairman NSE PH Branch



Vice Chairman NSE PH, Engr. Igoni, displaying the plaque.

### **+** FUNERAL SERVICE FOR LATE ENGR. L. T. DOMKPE, FNSE, (1938-2008)

Engr. L. T. Domkpe, FNSE, who died on 5th October 2008 was laid to rest on 6th December 2008 at Mogho in Gokana LGA, Rivers State after funeral service organized by Methodist Church Nigeria, Mogho. In his sermon at the service, Very Rev. Godwin Ike admonished all who attended the burial to have the mind of Christ. Attitude of godliness would bring peace and love to any community, he emphasized. Dignitaries from all works of life attended the funeral service. We pray that God should comfort the family to bear the loss. Amen.

### An Interview with Engr. Chima Ogolo, FNSE

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Then the ministry should only be faced with policy matters that are what we have been aiming at. So we have been preaching in that direction, we have been participating in stakeholders' forum on the railways and next month we shall be fully involved in the fourteenth economic summit, where we are going to make our voice heard again. So we've been doing that, in the public procurement act we are seriously involved from day one with the World Bank and so on. Right now we have been contributing in opening of tenders, accessing tenders and so on. COREN and that body had also cooperated and the Board of Public Procurement have been in good cooperation to ensure that only COREN registered Consulting Firms design any job for the Federal Government. So that has been implemented very well so that if you are not a consulting firm registered with COREN, you don't have any need of coming. That way we are making sure that only qualified people handle the design. We expect that very soon it will extend to contracting engineers.

*E-Newsletter: Thank you very much for the audience you have given us. Our engineers should take advantage of this information and upgrade themselves.*

### APOLOGY

In the last edition we published a caption "NSE PH E-NEWLETTER INTERVIEWED 4 SENIOR ENGINEERS". We mistakenly omitted the name of the Deputy President of NSE, Engr. O. A. Ajibola FNSE who was also interviewed. The actual number of senior members interviewed during "YANKARI 2008" was 5 and not 4 as published. The E-Newsletter team of NSE PH regret this mistake. We apologize for any inconvenience or controversy that this error might have caused our reading audience.



Engr. O. A. Ajibola, FNSE, Deputy President, NSE



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### **NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!**

All members of NSE PH should pay their **annual branch dues** of N4000 and **compulsory levy** of N5000 towards the Engineer Resource Center to UBA ACC. NO: 0802080000194 (Port Harcourt main Branch). Also pay **National Annual Subscription** of N5,500.00 directly to AFRIBANK ACC No. 1420202215613 & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank